The aim of the Government is to undertake early detection of the cases of mental disorder and that them at the community level. Towards this aim, District Mental Health Programme has already been intiated under the National Mental Health Programme and is presently being implemented in 25 districts covering 20 States and Union Territories in the Country.

Manning of Posts of ECG Technician in RML

4084. SHRI ABANI ROY :Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of poste of ECG Technicians including Junior and Senior existing in the RML Hospital and the actual person serving against them;

(b) whether it is a fact that Class IV employees including Nursing attendants have been put on the job of ECG Technicians in the Nursing Home, Emergency an OPD endangering the lives of patients;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to stop this wrong arrangement and put only quqlified persons on such technical jobs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) The number of sanctioned posts of Senior & Junior ECG Technicians in Dr. R.M.L. Hospital is as under:

Sr. ECG Technician	10
Jr. ECG Technician	04

At Present 10 Senior ECG Technicians and 4 Junior Technicians are working against the sanctioned posts.

(b) to (d) The Nursing Attendants who are trained in performing ECG are deployed to assist the ECG Technicians. Thus there is no chance of endangering the lives of the patients.

New sterilization techniques

4085. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are embarking on a programme to upgrade contraceptive technology including new sterilization techniques:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the new alternative procedure for men as a reversible contraceptive technique is likely to be available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Government of India has continuously been conducting research to expand the contraceptive choices both for men and women as well as improving the utilization of existing methods of family planning. Only recently CuT 380A (a long term intrauterine device) has been added in the National Family Welfare Programme to expand choices for women. This will provide long term (upto 10 years) protection for women. An Emergency Contraceptive Pill is being included in the National Programme as a back up measure in the event of non-use i.e., unprotected sex and also to safeguard against an unplanned pregnancy in the event of sexual assault, molestation etc. Besides these, a monthly injectable contraceptive for women is undergoing clinical evaluation by Indian Council of Medical Research.

For males, the technique of 'No cut, No-stitch Vasectomy known as No Scalpel Vasectomy, is receiving favourable response in many states.

Finally, clinical trials have commenced in respect of an emerging contraceptive for males. An injectable comprising of a bio-active compound and a specific co-polymer of Styrene with Maleic Anhydride when dissolved in a solvent of Dimethyl Sulphoxide when injected in the vas deferens,serves as a long term spacing method for males.

(c) phase-I clinical trial of this injectable for males was conducted in 1993 on 38 male volunteer whose wives had already undergone sterilization. Phase II clinical trial was completed in 1997 on subjects whose wives were having normal reproductive profile. The results of both Phase-I and Phase-II clinical trials have confirmed the safety of the drug, demonstrated azoospermia and gave complete protection against any possible pregnancy in the female.

Limited Phase-III clinical trial aiming to enroll 150 subjects is ongoing at three centres in Delhi. To increase the enrolment of the subjects, the trial has been recently extended to one more centre at Jaipur. The matter of release of the drug will be decided upon successful completion of Phase-III clinical trial and analysis of the relevant data.